

SUBJECT

Christian Patriots Defense League

FILE NUMBER

100-487109

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12/24/80

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTINE

#FOO2ERR OM SIIDE HQ H0002 #H0YCR 291628Z DEC 80

FM DIRECTOR, FBI

TO FBI, OMAHA {100-9680} ROUTINE

FBI, SPRINGFIELD ROUTINE

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CHRISTIAN PATRIOTIC DEFENSE LEAGUE {CPDL}; DOMESTIC SECURITY,

OO: OMAHA

RE OMAHA LET DATED DECEMBER 8, 1980. {U}

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INITIATED AUGUST 29, 1980; EX-  
TENDED THROUGH MARCH 1, 1981. {X} (u)AUTHORITY GRANTED TO EXTEND PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AS  
INDICATED ABOVE. ENSURE RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION ARE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO  
EXPIRATION DATE. {X} (u)SPRINGFIELD FURNISH OMAHA WITH SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CON-  
CERNING CAPTIONED GROUP FROM YOUR FILES. {X} (u)~~C 2 E 8824, REASON 2, DRD DECEMBER 24, 2000.~~

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12/24/80

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DECLASSIFIED ON 5/29/81

SP-4 J. J. G. J. J.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Department of the Army, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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FBI

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## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION

☐ TOP SECRET  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
 AND FIELD OFFICES  
 ADVISED BY ROUTING  
 SLIP(S) OF class  
 DATE 10-2-81 WJF

Date 3/11/81

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (100-11623) (RUC)  
 SUBJECT: CHANGED  
 CHRISTIAN-PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE (CPDL)  
 DOMESTIC SECURITY  
 OO: Omaha

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-4 JMB/BLW  
 ON 5/29/81

Title marked "changed" to reflect correct spelling  
 of organization known as Christian-Patriots Defense League.  
 Title previously carried as Christian Patriotic Defense League.

Information contained in this communication is  
 classified "confidential" unless otherwise shown. (U)

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INITIATED BY OMAHA ON  
 8/29/80, EXTENDED THROUGH 3/1/81.

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INITIATED BY CHARLOTTE  
 ON 1/21/81, TO EXPIRE 4/21/81.

Re Detroit airtel to Omaha dated 8/25/80, and  
 Bureau teletype to Omaha dated 12/28/80, captioned "Christian  
 Patriotic Defense League, OO: Omaha" and Charlotte airtel  
 to Springfield dated 2/9/81, captioned "Christian Patriots,  
 OO: Omaha".

Enclosed for Charlotte and Omaha are two copies each  
 of:

- V-56 DE-24 100 - 487109-2
- 1) A 6/3/77 newspaper article;
  - 2) An 11/13/79 newspaper article;

- ② - Bureau  
 2 - Charlotte (100-12245) (enc. 12)  
 2 - Omaha (100-9680) (enc. 12)  
 1 - Springfield (100-11623)

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Classified and Extended by 6974

Reasons for extension: FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2 (2&amp;3)

Date of review for declassification - 3/11/01

Approved: DW

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per

★ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1980-305-750/5402

COPIES over

See Index

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1 cc to 4085 CC

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- 3) A 7/1/80 newspaper article;
- 4) An undated open letter;
- 5) A "Freedom Festival" leaflet;
- 6) A Certificate of Incorporation in Illinois for the CPDL.

(b)(7)(C), (D)



Referenced Charlotte airtel indicated that individuals wearing camouflage uniforms claiming to be members of an advanced party of the Christian Patriots Organization were residing in the vicinity of the Uwharrie National Forest, Troy, North Carolina. Special forces units of the United States Army at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, have training exercises in the Uwharrie National Forest and have encountered individuals claiming to be Christian Patriots who are allegedly in the possession of automatic weapons. One of these individuals indicated he was from the Chicago, Illinois area. During the encounters with members of the Christian

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SI 100-11623

Patriots, members have requested to participate and cooperate in training with the special forces soldiers.

(b)(7)(c) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] John Robert Harrell, also known as Johnny Bob Harrell, was the organizer of the Christian-Patriots Defense League as well as the Christian Conservative Churches of America, which is headquartered in Louisville, Illinois.

(b)(7)(c), D [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] During the course of liaison with local and state authorities in Louisville, Illinois area, the following information was developed:

During 6/16-17/79, approximately three hundred to four hundred persons attended a "Freedom Festival" at Louisville, Illinois, on the grounds of the Christian Conservative Churches of America, which is described as a replica of George Washington's Mt. Vernon estate. During this session, lectures were presented concerning racial problems, survival techniques on how to survive during periods of emergencies, instruction in the use of firearms, and S.W.A.T. procedure. Expressions of anti-Jewish and anti-black sentiments were made throughout the session. Local authorities at Louisville, Illinois, have received reports of stockpiling of firearms and ammunition on the grounds of the Christian Conservative Churches of America at Louisville, which information has never been substantiated.

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SI 100-11623

(b)(7)(C)



- 4 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~FEDERAL GOVERNMENT~~

1 - [REDACTED]  
1 - Liaison Unit

March 13, 1981

FT. LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI  
APPROACH BY PARAMILITARY PERSONNEL  
JANUARY 6, 1981

Reference is made to your letter dated March 2, 1981,  
regarding the captioned matter.

A review of the material enclosed in the referenced  
letter reveals no basis for the investigation of the Christian  
Patriots Defense League under the United States Attorney General  
Guidelines for the conduct of domestic security investigations.

(5)

Delivered to Department of the Army via liaison on 3/17/81  
by [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/22/81 BY SP-4 Jmf/jlm  
Comp. # 210618

DE-114

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100-487109-2X  
100-0-46519  
20 MAR 27 1981

6 [REDACTED]



FBI

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☐ Immediate  
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☐ TOP SECRET  
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Date 4/2/81

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (100-12245) (P)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

① CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE (CPDL)  
 DOMESTIC SECURITY  
 OO: CHARLOTTE

Preliminary investigation initiated in Charlotte Division 1/21/81, to expire 4/21/81. Additionally, a preliminary investigation was initiated by Omaha 8/29/80, extended by FBIHQ through 3/1/81. Charlotte has no information indicating whether Omaha investigation was extended further. (X) (u)

Reference Charlotte airtel to Detroit 2/27/81 (IO);  
 Detroit airtel to Charlotte 3/13/81 (IO);  
 Bureau airtel to Charlotte 2/3/81, no copy to  
 Detroit or Omaha. (U)

- ② - Bureau  
 2 - Detroit (100-43096)  
 1 - Omaha (100-9680) (Info.)  
 3 - Charlotte

APR 6 1981

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Classified and Extended by 2204  
 Reason for Extension FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2(2)  
 Date of Review for Declassification 4/2/01

Approved: 1/11/81 101

Transmitted (Number) (Time)

Per

59 MAY 13 1981

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FBI

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☐ Immediate  
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☐ Routine

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☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date \_\_\_\_\_

CE 100-12245

As Charlotte communications have indicated captioned group is possibly in possession of automatic weapons and have encountered U. S. Army personnel in Uwharrie National Forest. Possession of these weapons could have been obtained by commission of a Theft of Government Property or Crime on a Government Reservation. Charlotte is attempting to determine such violations with the assistance of the military. Additionally, a political terrorist type organization with possession of illegal weapons (under U. S. Code Title 2 or including stolen military weapons) can be investigated by the FBI with or without the assistance of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. In this instance the Charlotte office has briefed ATF in North Carolina on the allegations and that organization also has been of assistance in attempting to resolve the allegations. Military concern at Fort Bragg, N. C. pertains to captioned group's contact with Special Forces Unit and includes the concern that the group intends to recruit active duty personnel in an effort to obtain additional weapons and ammunition for their arsenal. (X) (u)

(b)(7)(c)

According to the Attorney General's Guidelines for Domestic Security Investigations, Section IA, investigations can be conducted of an organization before a specific act of violence is committed, providing the purpose of the organization fits the criteria enumerated in IA(1) through IA(4). Additionally a preliminary investigation is to be confined to efforts to determine whether there is a factual basis for opening a full investigation. As stated in the Guidelines, IIC, "Information gathered by the FBI during preliminary investigations shall be

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☐ UNCLAS

Date \_\_\_\_\_

CE 100-12245

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"pertinent to verifying or refuting the allegations of information concerning activities described in Paragraph 1A." Charlotte office considers that it has met all the requirements of the Attorney General's Guidelines and, therefore, is conducting a valid preliminary investigation. (U)

There is little doubt that captioned organization is a para-military group functioning in North Carolina and probably other states. Although investigations of para-military groups without further allegations of possible illegal activity or potential violations of Federal law would not be permitted under the Guidelines, the allegations against captioned group do involve potential violations of Federal law. If no factual basis is developed for continuing this preliminary investigation or the facts developed are insufficient to warrant a request for a full investigation under the Guidelines this case will be closed. (X) (u)

REQUEST OF BUREAU:

In view of outstanding leads in the vicinity of Fort Bragg and the Uwharrie National Forest plus outstanding leads in other divisions, it is requested that a 90 day extension be granted in this case. (X) (u)

LEAD:DETROIT DIVISIONAT FLINT, MICHIGAN

Is requested to cover lead as set forth in Charlotte airtel of 2/27/81. Note Charlotte request for information [REDACTED] is merely a summary request of investigative steps specifically permitted by Section IIE of the Guidelines, which pertain to preliminary investigations. (X) (u) (b)(7)(c)

3\*

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Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_

(Number)

(Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_



# Memorandum

CONFIDENTIAL



To : DIRECTOR, FBI

Date 4/14/81

From : SAC, OMAHA (100-9680) (C)

Subject : CHRISTIAN-PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE (CPDL) APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
DOMESTIC SECURITY AND FIELD OFFICES  
OO: OMAHA ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SHIP(S) OF Class  
DATE 6-2-81 WJ

Preliminary investigation instituted by Omaha on 8/29/80, and extended through 3/1/81. No investigation conducted subsequent to 3/1/81. (X) (u)

Re Springfield airtel to Bureau, et al, 3/12/81; Charlotte airtel to Bureau, 4/2/81. (U)

Enclosed for the Bureau is the original and four copies of an LHM relating to the captioned matter within the Omaha Division. Enclosed for Charlotte, Detroit and Springfield is one copy each of same LHM for purposes of information only. (U)

ADMINISTRATIVE:

DECLASSIFIED ON 5/29/81

SP-4 Jm/alan



- 2-Bureau (Enc.-1) (INFO)
- 1-Charlotte (100-12245) (Enc.-1) (INFO)
- 1-Detroit (100-43096) (Enc.-1) (INFO)
- 1-Springfield (100-11623) (Enc.-1) (INFO)
- 1-Omaha

CONFIDENTIAL

23 APR 21 1981

(6)

1 cc - enc Rm 4684

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY 230  
REASON FOR EXTENSION 1.3.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 4/14/01

DOE CLASS

USSS

ATTN

64 MAY 5 1981

Room 407a

CONFIDENTIAL

OM 100-9680

IDENTIFICATION OF U. S. PERSONS:

LHM, dated 4/14/81, captioned "CHRISTIAN-PATRIOTS  
DEFENSE LEAGUE (CPDL)." (X) (u)

USPERS #1

(b)(7)(D)

(u)  
USPERS #2

(b)(7)(C)

USPERS #3

(b)(7)(C), (D)

USPERS #4

(u)

USPERS #5

(b)(7)(C)



**C**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Omaha, Nebraska

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

April 14, 1981

CHRISTIAN-PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE (CPDL)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF class  
DATE 6-2-81

This communication is classified Confidential  
in its entirety.

This investigation was predicated upon receipt of  
information from USPERS #ONE (1), an unknown individual

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(C)(D)

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DECLASSIFIED BY SP-4 Jm/alm  
ON 5/6/81

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY <u>23</u>
REASON FOR EXTENSION <u>4/14/01</u>
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION

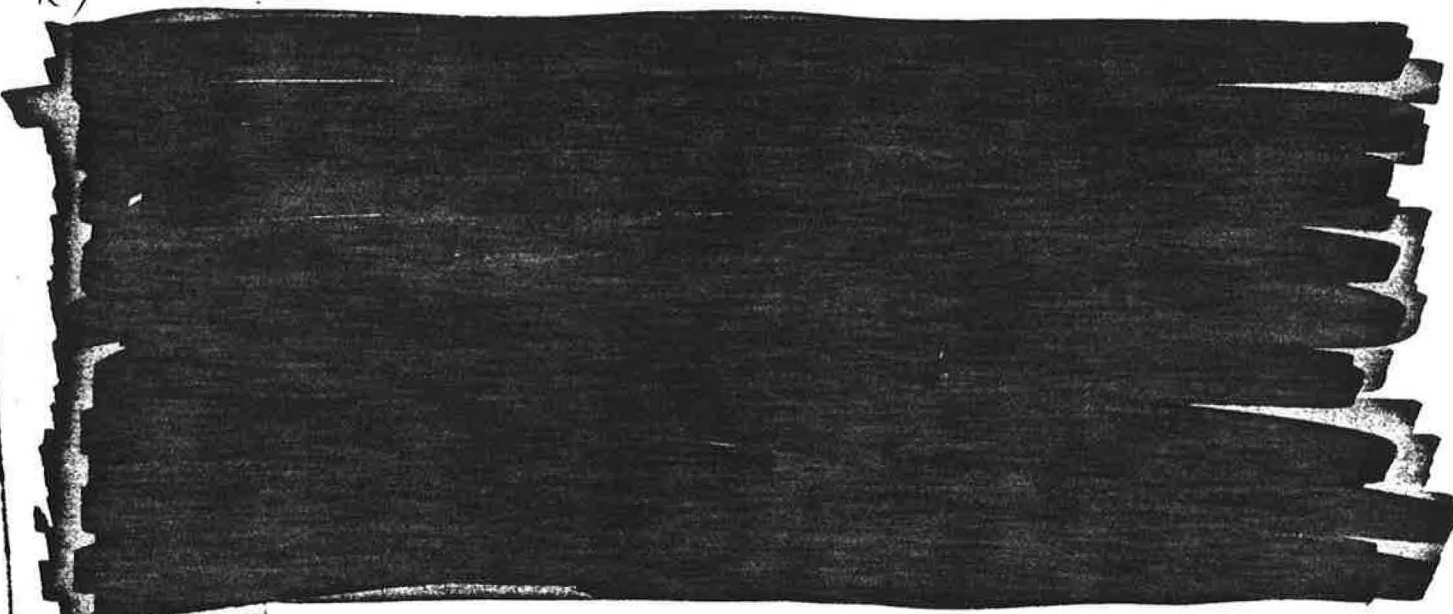

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ENCLOSURE


100 - 487109 - 4

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CHRISTIAN-PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE (CPDL)

(S)(C)(D)  
  
On October 16, 1980, inquiry with the Motor Vehicle Department, State of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, revealed a current operator's license for the State of Nebraska issued to USPERS #2. 

(S)(C)  
Inquiry with the Identification Division of the FBI, Washington, D.C., regarding any identification record for USPERS #2 was negative.

The Springfield, Illinois, Division of the FBI has advised that the CPDL is a dually incorporated non-profit organization whose articles of incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State for the State of Illinois on April 11, 1978, wherein the purposes of the corporation were stated as being for the preservation of Christian principles and the American heritage of constitutional freedoms and liberty. 

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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CHRISTIAN-PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE (CPDL)

Investigation regarding the CPDL and USPERS #2 in the vicinity of Omaha, Nebraska, has failed to reveal any other members of the CPDL or any propensity for acts of violence on the part of USPERS #2.

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☐ UNCLAS

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
 AND FIELD OFFICES  
 ADVISED BY SLIP

DATE 8/16/83

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Date 6/17/81

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (100-43096)(CI-2)(RUC)

CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS  
 DEFENSE LEAGUE (CPDL)  
 DOMESTIC SECURITY  
 (OO: CHARLOTTE)

DECLASSIFIED BY 001-BSK-JO  
 ON 8/25/83

Re Charlotte airtels to the Bureau, 5/29/81 and 4/2/81, and Detroit airtel to the Bureau, 3/13/81. (U)

Preliminary inquiry was initiated by the Charlotte Division on 1/21/81; expiration date 4/21/81. (X)

The referenced 4/2/81 Charlotte airtel requested a development of background information on [REDACTED]. This referenced communication also requested a 90 day extension be granted in this case for additional investigation. (X)

The only investigation conducted by the Detroit Division, which was conducted prior to 4/21/81, involved review of the Flint, Michigan, city directory, 1980, which revealed [REDACTED]

No other investigation was conducted by the Detroit Division pending an approval on the 90 day extension request by the Charlotte Division. (X)

The 5/29/81 Charlotte referenced airtel reveals that the Bureau has not granted a 90 day extension in captioned matter and the Charlotte Division placed their matter in a closed status. Since no 90 day extension has been granted, the Detroit Division is placing this matter in an RUC status. (X)

2 - Bureau (RM)  
 1 - Charlotte (100-12245)(RM)  
 1 - Detroit

(4)

Level of Classification  
 Classified and Extended 2940  
 Reason for Extension 1.2.4.2, 2.3  
 Date of Review for Declassification 6/17/2001

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Approved: 251

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(Time)

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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF

Date 5/29/81

DATE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (100-12245) (C)

CONFIDENTIAL

CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE (CPDL)  
 DOMESTIC SECURITY  
 OO: CHARLOTTE

Re Charlotte airtel to Bureau 4/2/81. (U)

Referenced airtel reviewed investigative purposes for this case and requested a 90 day extension from the Bureau. The Bureau has not granted this 90 day extension, and no investigation has been conducted by the Charlotte Division since 4/17/81. No information was developed during the period of active investigation which indicated any specific violation of Federal law. This matter is being considered closed in the Charlotte office, as no authority exists for continued investigation.

By airtel dated 4/23/81 the Bureau instructed that a preliminary investigation be conducted of [REDACTED] Miami was designated office of origin, and the investigative results of Charlotte's inquiry into [REDACTED] will be furnished to the Miami Division prior to the expiration date of the preliminary investigation.

- ② - Bureau  
 1 - Detroit (100-43096) (Info.)  
 1 - Miami (Info.)  
 2 - Charlotte (1 - 100-12245)  
     (1 - 100-12248)

100 - 487109-6

7 JUN 1 1981

DECLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]  
 ON [REDACTED]

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Classified and Extended by 2204  
 Reason for Extension FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2 (2)  
 Date of Review for Declassification 5/29/01

Approved: [Signature]

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per

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FM WASHINGTON FIELD

TO DIRECTOR FBI ROUTINE

FBI INDIANAPOLIS ROUTINE

FBI KANSAS CITY ROUTINE

FBI LITTLE ROCK ROUTINE

FBI LOS ANGELES ROUTINE (ALL OFFICES VIA FBIHQ)

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY ROUTINE

FBI PITTSBURGH ROUTINE

FBI SPRINGFIELD ROUTINE

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION ONE OF TWO SECTIONS  
CHRISTIAN-PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE; CITIZENS EMERGENCY  
DEFENSE SYSTEM; DOMESTIC SECURITY; (00:SPRINGFIELD);  
(WFO FILE 100-59886) (P)

CHRISTIAN CONSERVATIVE CHURCHES OF AMERICA; DOMESTIC  
SECURITY; (00:SPRINGFIELD); (WFO FILE 100-59887) (P)

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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
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8/26/83

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Order  
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Per



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FM WASHINGTON FIELD

TO DIRECTOR FBI ROUTINE

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FBI OKLAHOMA CITY ROUTINE

FBI PITTSBURGH ROUTINE

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION TWO OF TWO SECTIONS  
CHRISTIAN-PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE; CITIZENS EMERGENCY  
DEFENSE SYSTEM; DOMESTIC SECURITY; (00:SPRINGFIELD);  
(WFO FILE 100-59886) (P);

CHRISTIAN CONSERVATIVE CHURCHES OF AMERICA; DOMESTIC  
SECURITY; (00:SPRINGFIELD); (WFO FILE 100-59887) (P)

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100-487109-7 page 2 of part 2

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PAGE THREE DE WF 0023 ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

WASHINGTON FIELD INDICES CONTAIN NO PERTINENT  
INFORMATION REGARDING CAPTIONED GROUPS AND THE ADDITIONAL  
ABOVE MENTIONED GROUPS, AS WELL AS THE ABOVE MENTIONED  
NAMES, INCLUDING [REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)

SINCE WASHINGTON FIELD IS UNAWARE OF ANY INVESTIGATION(S)  
REGARDING THIS MATTER, THE FOLLOWING LEADS ARE SET FORTH:

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU:

THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO SEARCH INDICES REGARDING THE  
ABOVE MENTIONED GROUPS, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
AND FURNISH POSITIVE INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE OFFICES.

LEADS. SPRINGFIELD IS REQUESTED TO CONSIDER CONDUCTING A  
PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION REGARDING CAPTIONED GROUPS, [REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ALSO, ALL APPROPRIATE OFFICES

PAGE FOUR DE WF 0023 C O N F I D E N T I A L

ARE REQUESTED TO SEARCH INDICES REGARDING THESE NAMES AND GROUPS,  
AND TO CONTACT LOCAL BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND FIREARMS  
(BATF) OFFICE REGARDING THE POSSIBLE ILLEGAL TRANSACTIONS OF  
WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS REGARDING THESE GROUPS.

WASHINGTON FIELD. AT WASHINGTON, D.C. WILL MAINTAIN  
CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] FOR ANY FURTHER  
INFORMATION REGARDING THIS MATTER, AND WILL ADVISE THE  
BUREAU AND APPROPRIATE OFFICES.

(b)(7)(C), (D)

~~C&E BY 849. REASONS 2 AND 3. DRD SEPTEMBER 8, 2021.~~

BT

#0023

NNNN

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 9/25/81

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(b)(7)(c)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: SAC, DETROIT (100-43100) (CI-2) (RUC)

CHRISTIAN PATRIOT DEFENSE  
LEAGUE/SCEPTRE, INC.  
BENTON, TENNESSEE  
DOMESTIC SECURITY INVESTIGATION

Christian Patriotic Defense  
 League

Re Detroit airtel and LHM to Bureau, 9/8/81. (U)

Enclosed for Indianapolis, Omaha, and Springfield are one copy each of referenced airtel and LHM. Bureau, Atlanta, and Knoxville are receiving one copy of Detroit letter to Omaha, 8/25/80, captioned "CHRISTIAN PATRIOTIC DEFENSE LEAGUE (CPDL); DS - TERRORISM."

Recipients are receiving these enclosures in order to supplement previous correspondence in this regard. (U)

ENCLOSURE

- 10  
 ② - Bureau (Enc.-1) (RM)  
 2 - Atlanta (Enc.-1) (RM)  
 2 - Indianapolis (Enc.-2) (RM)  
 2 - Knoxville (Enc.-1) (RM)  
 2 - Omaha (Enc.-2) (RM)  
 2 - Springfield (Enc.-2) (RM)  
 1 - Detroit

DECLASSIFIED BY 001125/10  
 ON 8/25/83  
 231431

Level of Classification  
 Classified and Extended by 140  
 Reason for Extension FIM 1 (2)(3)  
 Date of Review for Declassification 9/25/2001

OCT 9 1981

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
 AND FIELD OFFICES  
 ADVISED BY ROUTING  
 SLIP (6) OF  
 DATE

Approved:

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

NOV 18 1981



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

X AIRTEL

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF deslon  
DATE 8/25/80

8/25/80

TO: SAC, OMAHA (100-0)  
FROM: SAC, DETROIT (100-0) (SQ CI-1)  
CHRISTIAN PATRIOTIC DEFENSE LEAGUE  
(CPDL)  
DS - TERRORISM

DECLASSIFIED BY 201 BSK DC  
ON 8/28/83 .....  
231431

(b)(7)(D)

For information of Omaha and Springfield, an individual  
who identified himself as

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

no investigation. (U) Detroit conducting

- 2 - Omaha (RM)
- 2 - Springfield (RM)
- 1 - Detroit

71 [REDACTED]

Level of Classification  
Classified and Elected  
by the E. Section

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED

100-0-46335

DE 100-0

[REDACTED]

(b)(7)(C), (D)

All information contained herein is being submitted to Omaha and Springfield for any appropriate investigation. (U)

For any assistance to Indianapolis, which info may be connected to the shooting of [REDACTED]

(b)(7)(C)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



TRANSMIT VIA:  
☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:  
☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
FBI

CLASSIFICATION:  
☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 10/8/81

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF DATE 8/16/83

TO DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM SAC, INDIANAPOLIS (100-28310) (RUC)  
CHRISTIAN-PATRIOTS  
DEFENSE LEAGUE;  
CITIZENS EMERGENCY  
DEFENSE SYSTEM  
DOMESTIC SECURITY  
OO: SPRINGFIELD

DECLASSIFIED BY DDI-GST-JC  
ON 8/25/83  
231431

All paragraphs herein including the caption are classified "Confidential" unless otherwise noted.  
Re IP airtel to Bureau, 9/18/81, and WFO teletype to Bureau, 9/8/81.

On 10/5/81, Special Agent [redacted] Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms at Fort Wayne, Indiana, advised that his agency has no record nor does he have any knowledge of an ATF investigation into any captioned groups or any individual mentioned in referenced teletype. [redacted] that although several organizations that he would classify as being "extreme" operate in the area, he has never heard any rumors regarding any of them maintaining a training base in or around Fort Wayne. [redacted] that should he receive any such information in the future he would contact the FBI. Indianapolis considering this matter RUC.

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY 2979  
REASON FOR EXTENSION FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2 (2) (3)  
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 10/8/81  
100-481109-9

- 2 - Bureau
- 2 - Washington Field Office  
(1 - 100-59886)  
(1 - 100-59887)
- 1 - Indianapolis

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Transmitted

12 OCT 13 1981

OCT 26 1981

VZBZC F05J3

RR HI LP KC LR OC OM SI

DE WF 3013 2833344

ZNY CCCCC

R 291947Z OCT 81

FM FBI WASHINGTON FIELD (CI-13)

TO FBI DIRECTOR ROUTINE

FBI INDIANAPOLIS ROUTINE

FBI KANSAS CITY ROUTINE

FBI LITTLE ROCK ROUTINE

FBI LOS ANGELES ROUTINE

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY ROUTINE

FBI OMAHA ROUTINE

FBI PITTSBURGH ROUTINE

FBI SPRINGFIELD ROUTINE

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CHRISTIAN-PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE; CITIZENS EMERGENCY DEFENSE

SYSTEM; DOMESTIC SECURITY; OO:SPRINGFIELD; (WFO FILE 123-59916) (P)

CHRISTIAN CONSERVATIVE CHURCHES OF AMERICA; DOMESTIC SECURITY;

OO:SPRINGFIELD; (WFO FILE 123-59917) (P)

THE ENTIRE CONTENTS OF THIS COMMUNICATION ARE CLASSIFIED

"CONFIDENTIAL" UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

RECEIVED  
TELETYPE UNIT

10 OCT 81 10 49Z

FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF  
DATE 8/26/83

DECLASSIFIED BY 8/25/83  
ON 23143

Exec AD-Adm	_____
Exec AD-Inv	_____
Exec AD-LES	_____
Asst Dir:	_____
Adm Servs.	_____
Crim Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Rec Mgnt.	_____
Tech Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

100-487107-10

5 OCT 14 1981

XEROX

OCT 22 1981

PAGE TWO DE WF 3313 C O N F I D E N T I A L

REFERENCE WASHINGTON FIELD TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR DATED  
SEPTEMBER 3, 1931.

THE BUREAU AND ALL RECEIVING OFFICES ARE TO BE ADVISED  
THAT THE WASHINGTON FIELD FILE NUMBERS ON REFERENCED TELETYPE  
WERE IN ERROR. THE NEW WASHINGTON FIELD FILE NUMBERS ARE  
INDICATED IN CAPTIONED TITLES. THE BUREAU AND ALL RECEIVING  
OFFICES ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE NOTE OF THE NEW WASHINGTON FIELD  
FILE NUMBERS IN FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS.

~~SEE BY 5554. FORM, 11 (2,3). OCTOBER 3, 1931.~~

BT

#3313

NNNN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
- ☐ UNCLAS

Date 9/18/81

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, INDIANAPOLIS (100-28310) (P)

CHRISTIAN-PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE;  
CITIZENS EMERGENCY DEFENSE SYSTEM  
DOMESTIC SECURITY  
OO: Springfield

All paragraphs herein, including the caption, are classified "Confidential" unless otherwise noted.

Re Washington Field Office teletype to the Bureau and others, 9/8/81.

Enclosed for Omaha is one copy of referenced teletype.

On 9/14/81. SA [redacted] BATF, Indianapolis, Indiana, advised there is no record of any local BATF investigation of captioned groups or any individual mentioned in referenced teletype.

[redacted]

100-487109-11

- 2 - Bureau
- 2 - Omaha (Enc. 1)
- 4 - Springfield
- 2 - Washington Field Office  
(1 - 100-59886)  
(1 - 100-59887)
- 3 - Indianapolis

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY 2979  
REASON FOR EXTENSION 1, II, 1-2.4.2 293  
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 9/18/2001

(13)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

15 SEP 24 1981

cc dest [redacted]  
9/25/81

DECLASSIFIED 878024

Approved: [redacted] Transmitted

(Number) (Time)

59 OCT 29 1981

Rm.

[redacted]



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

IP 100-28310

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU:

(b)(7)(C)

The Bureau is requested to search Indices regarding [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Christian Patriotic Defense League.

L E A D S

OMAHA

At Omaha, Nebraska

1. Search Indices regarding captioned groups [REDACTED] and  
Christian Patriotic Defense League.
2. Contact BATF for details regarding that agency's investigation  
of [REDACTED]

INDIANAPOLIS

At Fort Wayne, Indiana

Contact BATF for any information regarding captioned matter, (b)(7)(D)

[REDACTED]  
(Furnish lead Agent with a copy of referenced teletype.)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OG0004 2670136Z

RR HQ SI WF

DE OC

R 230136Z SEP 81

FM OKLAHOMA CITY (157-2851) (C)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

SPRINGFIELD ROUTINE

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE (100-59886) (100-59887) ROUTINE

BT

CONFIDENTIAL

① CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE, ① CITIZENS EMERGENCY DEFENSE  
SYSTEM; DOMESTIC SECURITY; OO: SPRINGFIELD; WFO FILE 100-59886.  
CHRISTIAN CONSERVATIVE CHURCHES OF AMERICA; DOMESTIC SECURITY;  
OO: SPRINGFIELD; WFO FILE 100-59887.

THE ENTIRE CONTENTS OF THIS COMMUNICATION ARE CLASSIFIED  
CONFIDENTIAL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

RE WFO ROUTINE TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, SEPTEMBER 8, 1981.

SEARCH OF OKLAHOMA CITY INDICES ON [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NEGATIVE.

SEARCH OF INDICES ON CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE,  
CITIZENS VOLUNTEER DEFENSE LEAGUE, CITIZENS EMERGENCY DEFENSE  
LEAGUE, DETERMINED [REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED BY 201/351/201  
ON 8/25/83

231431

59 NOV 1 1981

Exec AD-Adm.	
Exec AD-Inv.	
Exec AD-LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Inspection	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Plan. & Insp.	
Tech. Serv.	
Training	
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-487161

PAGE TWO, OC 157-2851, CONFIDENTIAL

(b)(7)(c),(d)

[REDACTED]

ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1981, [REDACTED] AGENT, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, ADVISED CAPTIONED GROUPS NOT FAMILIAR TO HER. SHE STATED SHE WOULD CANVAS AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA AND ADVISE THE FBI IF CAPTIONED GROUPS KNOWN TO ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS.

ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1981, AGENT [REDACTED] ADVISED SHE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE ANYONE CONNECTED WITH ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS IN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA WHO WAS ACQUAINTED WITH CAPTIONED ORGANIZATIONS.

PAGE THREE, OC 157-2851, CONFIDENTIAL

~~O AND E 166, RFE 2, DRD SEPTEMBER 23, 2001.~~

BT



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.



Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(C) (D) with no segregable material available for release to you.



Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.



Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.



Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



For your information: \_\_\_\_\_



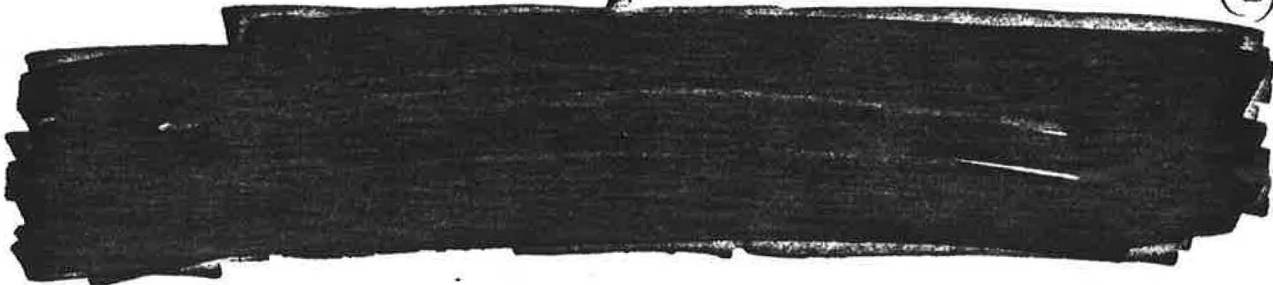
The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:


100-487109-13 page 1

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~INTER-OFFICE~~

(b)(7)(C), (D)



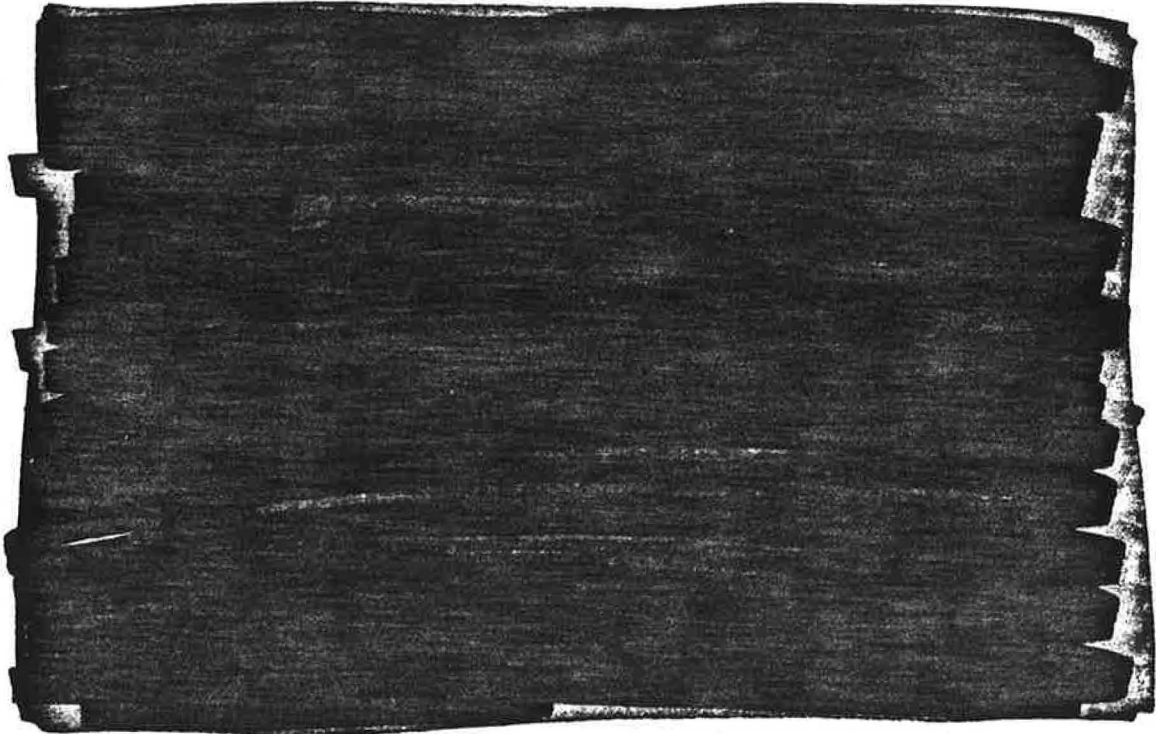
On August 28, 1981, telephonic contact with  of the Springfield Division revealed that the Springfield Division does not have an investigation pending on the CPDL, but did at one time. No basis was found for continuing the investigation of the CPDL.

(b)(7)(C)

Philadelphia indices negative re CPDL.

(U)

(b)(7)(C), (D)



(U)

The above for information. Since no active investigation presently being conducted by office of origin, no action being taken by Philadelphia.

(X)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-487109-13

pg 2

Memorandum



To : DIRECTOR, FBI

Date 10/29/81

From : SAC, OMAHA (100-9680) (RUC)

Subject : CHRISTIAN-PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE (CPDL);  
CITIZENS EMERGENCY DEFENSE SYSTEM;  
DOMESTIC SECURITY  
OO: SPRINGFIELD

Re Indianapolis airtel to the Bureau, et al, dated 9/18/81; Springfield airtel to the Bureau, et al, dated 10/5/81

Omaha indices negative re Citizens Emergency Defense System, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On 10/20/81, inquiry with the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division of the Treasury Department, 106 South 15th Street, Omaha, Nebraska, revealed that that agency in the past has investigated [REDACTED]

- ② - Bureau  
2 - Springfield (100-11623)  
1 - Indianapolis (100-28310) (Info)  
1 - Omaha

12 NOV 6 1981

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/25/83 BY SP1 GSK/SC  
231431

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 10/5/81

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (100-11623) (C)

SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE (CPDL)  
 CITIZENS EMERGENCY DEFENSE SYSTEM  
 DOMESTIC SECURITY  
 OO: Springfield

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/25/83 BY SP1-GSK-JSC

Enclosed for each office is a four page article from  
 "The Trooper" magazine regarding the CPDL,

[REDACTED] John Robert Harrell, aka Johnny Bob Harrell, was the organizer of the Christian-Patriots Defense League (CPDL) as well as the Citizens Emergency Defense System and the Christian Conservative Churches of America, all of which are headquartered in Louisville, Illinois. The CPDL espouses an ultra-conservative philosophy and the belief that the U. S. is headed towards moral and economic collapse and that a communist attack is probable and eminent. The CPDL is organizing and training like-minded individuals in survival techniques and military tactics to be able to take care of themselves when that time comes. It is noted that during the summer months in years past, several hundred people attend a "Freedom Festival" at Louisville, Illinois, on the grounds of the Christian Conservative Churches of America which is described as a replica of George Washington's Mt. Vernon Estate. During this festival, lectures are

ENCLOSURE

2 - Bureau	1 - Chicago	1 - Jackson	1 - New Haven
1 - Albany	1 - Cincinnati	1 - Jacksonville	1 - New Orleans
1 - Albuquerque	1 - Cleveland	1 - Kansas City	1 - New York City
1 - Alexandria	1 - Columbia	1 - Knoxville	1 - Norfolk
1 - Anchorage	1 - Dallas	1 - Las Vegas	1 - Oklahoma City
1 - Atlanta	1 - Denver	1 - Little Rock	(157-2851)
1 - Baltimore	1 - Detroit	1 - Los Angeles	1 - Omaha
1 - Boston	1 - El Paso	1 - Louisville	1 - Philadelphia
1 - Buffalo	1 - Honolulu	1 - Memphis	1 - Phoenix
1 - Butte	1 - Houston	1 - Miami	1 - Pittsburgh
1 - Charlotte	1 - Indianapolis	1 - Milwaukee	1 - Portland
	(100-23310)	1 - Minneapolis	1 - Richmond
1 - Springfield (100-11623)		1 - Mobile	1 - Sacramento
		1 - Newark	(cont. Pg. 2)

Approved: [Signature]

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per [Signature]

SOS



SI 100-11623

1 - St. Louis  
1 - Salt Lake City  
1 - San Antonio  
1 - San Diego  
1 - San Francisco  
1 - San Juan  
1 - Savannah  
1 - Seattle  
1 - Tampa  
2 - WFO (1 - 100-59886)  
(1 - 100-59887)

presented concerning racial problems, survival techniques on how to survive during periods of emergencies, instructions in the use of firearms and SWAT procedures. Expressions of anti-Jewish and anti-black sentiments are made throughout the festival. Local authorities at Louisville, Illinois, have received reports of stockpiling of firearms and ammunition on the grounds of the Christian Conservative Churches of America at Louisville which information has never been substantiated.

(b7)(C)

The Springfield Division does not have a pending investigation concerning [REDACTED] the CPDL, the Citizens Emergency Defense System, or the Christian Conservative Churches of America; [REDACTED]

All offices are being furnished with the above information since the Springfield Division occasionally receives communications from other offices indicating that the CPDL and its associates are active in other divisions.

SI 100-11623

Springfield Division is carrying this case in a closed status since this matter does not meet the Attorney General's Guidelines for investigation in domestic security cases.

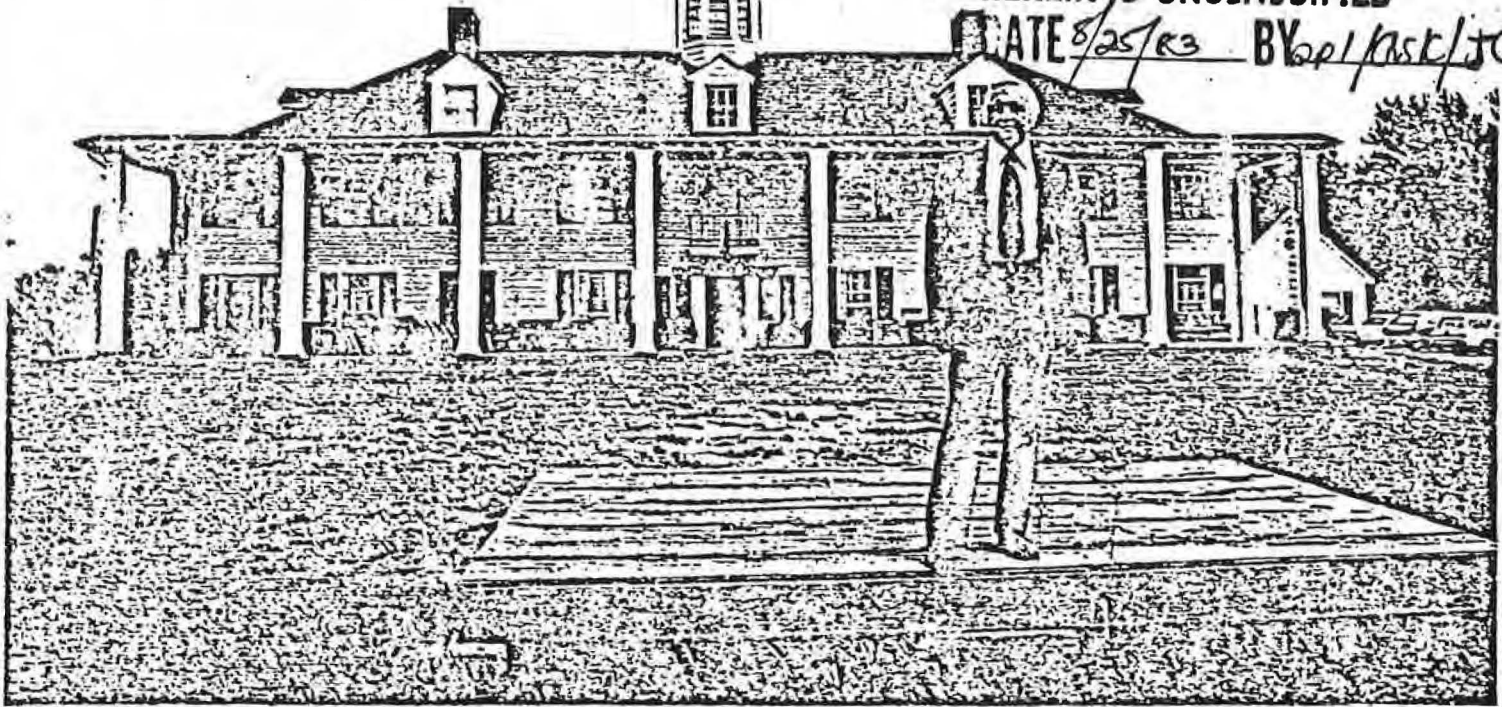


# The Return of Johnny Bob

By MASSAD F. AYOOB

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/25/83 BY 601/KST/JC



*Elsewhere in this issue we have an article on the state of nuclear disaster preparedness in Illinois. Attention is focused primarily around areas like the Zion facility outside Chicago. Downstate, another organization is planning for a different type of nuclear disaster.*

The Christian Patriots Defense League doesn't worry about domestic nuclear disasters of the Three Mile Island or China Syndrome genre. They're considering World War III, which they feel will probably occur in the next two or three years. They contend that America has gone soft and rotten, and that a giant, iron-muscle Communist monolith is ready to move forward and step on this nation. They figure when that happens, weak-willed and Fifth Column-inclined liberals, Easterners, Blacks and Jews will become a sort of a new Vichy government that will help turn all God-fearing, right-thinking Americans over to the enemy.

This is the vision of Johnny Bob Harrel, founder and guru of the Defense League. It has been estimated that 25,000 American citizens have bought that scenario and, to a greater or lesser extent, become part of his organization. "We are patriots," says Harrel, "and we are hard-core survivalists."

What he neglects to say, in so many words, is that individuals who do not happen to be both Caucasian and right wing need not apply.

He makes it clear that his gatherings, which include annual Freedom Festivals here at the League's headquarters in Louisville, Illinois, and which draw as many as 2,000 people, are open to whites only. Blacks, Hispanics, and others are turned away at the gate. Though non-WASP Caucasians are accepted, Harrel makes it clear that in his view, and that of his organization, an American of French descent who marries one of Italian descent is committing something close to miscegenation.

"We welcome patriotic Blacks and Americans of Arab descent," says Harrel, "but they will work within their own groups. We believe that 40% of the world's problems are caused by mixing of the races."

Feature Editor Massad Ayoob is a former police officer and a nationally published author.

JOHNNY BOB Harrel poses outside the Christian Patriots Defense League headquarters, which is also his home, patterned after Mount Vernon, "only 20% larger." (MFA photo)

"Why should we not have organizations which are Caucasians only?" Harrel asks almost plaintively. "Blacks have Black-only meetings, Hispanics have Hispanic-only meetings, American Indians have Indian-only meetings. Should we not be able to have gatherings that promote the white culture, which our forefathers created this country to perpetuate?"

Asked if he is a white racist, Harrell will steadfastly deny it, though admitting that he will occasionally work with some organizations that profess those beliefs, if those organizations hold common philosophical grounds with his. He states that the Christian Patriots Defense League has no formal alliance with the Posse Comitatus, an avowedly white racist group headquartered in the northern Midwest, though it is significant that a Posse Comitatus bumper sticker is prominently displayed on one column of Harrel's home/headquarters, which is patterned after Mount Vernon. Local journalists covering the Freedom Festivals have noted that Ku Klux Klan T-shirts abound.

ENCLOSURE 100 - 487109 - 15

...this begins to sound logical, he advised that Harrel's inspiration, he says, is a dream experienced by George Washington at Valley Forge, in which Washington dreamed that an angel took him on a guided tour of the newborn nation's future. This supposedly went in three stages: the victory in the Revolution, the Civil War, and a time when America would be beset by invaders from all continents. This last

disaster would claim a vast toll in human life and would drive the patriots to the center of the country, but through a series of divine miracles, the USA would ultimately prevail and presumably not only take back the American continent, but rule the world. In Harrel's vision, they will do it right this time, since he and his followers believe that American government has long since been in violation of the true principles of the Constitution.

There is no question that there is a prevailing sense of unease and of weakness in America today. Harrel and his people play on that. Gas shortages, blackouts, brownouts, the Miami riots, Afghanistan; it could begin to add up.

ment of a .22 rifle and a 12 gauge gun, and at least a month's supply of food for every family member, it can start to look as if his newsletter is meshing a little bit with today's *New York Times* editorial. It is not for nothing that the Mormon Church is increasing its membership at a more rapid rate than any other religion in America. The Mormons emphasize family solidarity, and a generally healthful and pragmatic lifestyle, which includes a year's supply of food kept in storage in the home. The whole nation is swinging a bit to the right, and the traditional values of decades past are again coming to the fore.

JOHNNY BOB, below, poses with some of the publicity material that is mailed out in information packets, by the thousands, every week. (MFA photo)







IN THE BACKGROUND, Harrel watches as some of his volunteers, of whom he has upwards of 100 in the area, pack envelopes with a combination of survivalist and white supremacy leaflets. (MFA photo)

fugitive, against what they had every reason to expect would be violent, armed resistance.

Harrel, at that time an extremely successful construction entrepreneur, had established something of an isolationist community around his Mount Vernon replica and had given sanctuary to an AWOL Marine. Police intelligence had indicated that the guards in the elevated sentry posts around the barbed wire-enclosed estate were armed with high powered rifles and would have no qualms about using them against authorities who "invaded" the enclave that Harrel today calls "the headquarters of mid-America survival area."

Harrel says mournfully, "They came in with their planes, soldiers, state troopers, and FBI men a couple of hundred strong. They even had an armored vehicle. Naturally, we gave them no resistance. However, I wound up spending 10 years in a federal prison."

Corporal Rinehart of District 12 remembers that day well. He was the

trooper who drove the borrowed half-track. "We used the half-track for a very good reason. We had been told that their guards were armed with high-powered rifles and would fire, if we attempted to move in. Harrel had refused to surrender the suspect previously. We moved in at dawn and found that a line of cars was blocking the gate. I drove the half-track through the gate, rammed one of the cars out of the way, and we proceeded in. Because we had entered before they were ready to intercept us with force, we met no armed resistance. There were, however, a number of arrests made for resisting arrest. We took our prisoner out of there, and we also took Mr. Harrel."

Harrel says that there was no reason for the authorities to come in in force, but police photographs taken at the scene show the arsenal of military-style rifles that was found at Harrel's home. With that in mind, we asked Johnny Bob just how his patriots organization of 25,000, which he has designed to function as a shadow army, would cope with the fact that they were in violation of the lawful authority of the government at a time of national emergency. If Illinois State Troopers

were assigned to disband them, would these people lay down their arms?

Harrel got very nervous about this question. After some hemming and hawing, he allowed that the majority of his members would not be disposed to giving up either their assault rifles or their ideals to duly constituted officers, under such circumstances.

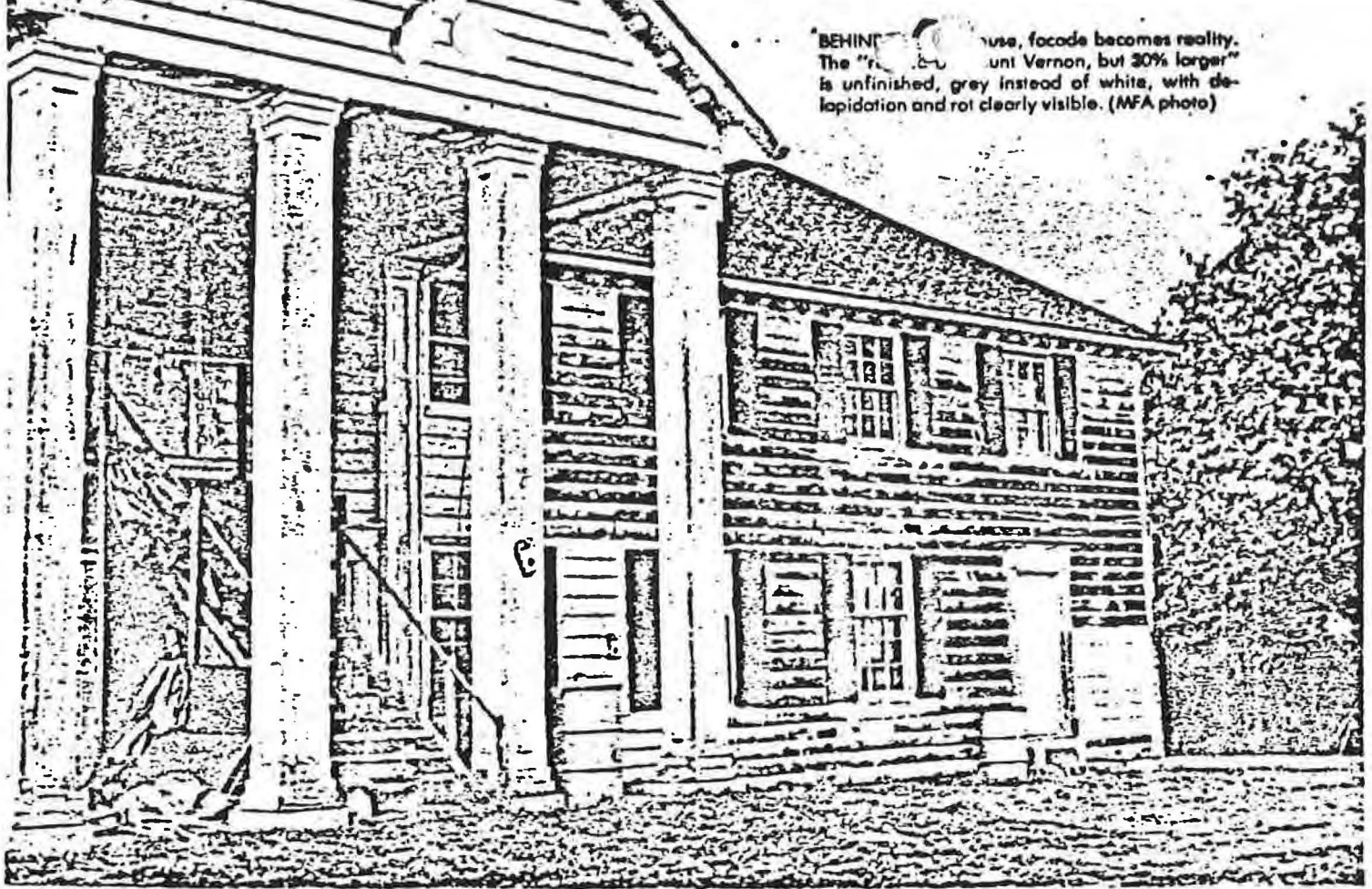
To digress briefly, here we have what could be a very real dilemma under the circumstances described. Constitutional scholars continue to argue whether the phrase "A well-regulated militia being necessary to a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed," in the Second Amendment, refers to armed citizens or the National Guard. Historical precedents and studies of state constitutions indicate that the founding fathers had more of an unorganized militia in mind, than they did an army reserve. This seems to lend credence to what Johnny Bob is saying.

But it is something else again to picture "hard-core survivalists", as Johnny Bob describes his followers, shooting it out with cops, if the scenario that Johnny Bob describes as the second most likely to happen does happen. He envisions America facing a major economic collapse from within resulting in widespread civil disorder. At that time, his purported 25,000 members would converge on his "mid-America survival area" headquartered in Flora/Louisville, Illinois.

Harrel is a wordsmith, a man accustomed to talking in public, and has said, "We take the position that anything the news media says or writes about us helps, as such reports are not so much to convince, but to challenge the public thinking and forewarn them of coming events," whether the articles are favorable or not. Less mellow about all this are some of Harrel's followers.

By all accounts his Freedom Festivals draw people who are as much into the concept of shooting looters as of storing a year's supply of wheat. While Harrel apparently didn't try to hurt anyone during his 1963 arrest, a trooper who was there recalls, "One of the people there got extremely violent and lashed out at the troopers. That person struck a trooper in the face. It took the trooper a moment to realize that this long-haired person was not one of the females who were milling around, and he flattened the guy."

Yet, by all accounts, the Christian Patriots Defense League has been well-behaved to date. Troopers haven't



BEHIND the house, facade becomes reality. The "replica" of Mount Vernon, but 30% larger" is unfinished, grey instead of white, with delapidation and rot clearly visible. (MFA photo)

bothered to infiltrate the Freedom Festivals, so they don't challenge the reporter's statements about the KKK T-shirts all over the place. Corporal Rinehart notes, "We never have any trouble with them down here. None of the people who come for Johnny Bob's gatherings cause any difficulties in the area at all." Like most District 12 troopers, Rinehart chuckles when you ask him about Johnny Bob. He is known in the area as a nice, quiet, soft-spoken sort of a guy who is just a little, well, eccentric.

Harrel's estate in Louisville, which he has prepared as the Capitol of America after the Apocalypse, is centered around the Harrel home. It is "a replica of Mount Vernon but 20% larger", a reference that appears in any story on Johnny Bob and his group. But Johnny Bob's house was never finished, and if you walk around the back, you'll see that it is gray instead of white, the windows are broken, and the casements and flatboards are gray and sagging. It looks great from the front, but it is only a front. All the acres that supposedly will hold the Capitol of the new America are untill-

ed and fallow and are not prepared to produce the food needed to feed all the "Christian Patriots" who seem to believe that they can flock there for salvation when The Great Invasion comes.

Johnny Bob has upwards of 100 people, in the area, who he uses as volunteer labor in order to send out the thousands of information packets that are mailed from the Defense League headquarters every week. He is deeply resentful that the government no longer recognizes his Christian Conservative Church as a non-profit organization, but he doesn't really worry about where the money is coming from.

A private citizen, a Christian Patriots Defense League member who lives in District 7, said, "We're going to be ready when all those niggers come streamin' out of Chicago." Courtney Smith, who speaks for both the conservative Liberty Lobby and the Defense League, has publicly said, "Have not the Russians said they will bury us? Yet our Congressmen and Senators vote to aid and abet them; that's treason. They should be hanged—slowly."

"A little eccentric"? Harrel is most definitely that. "Nice, quiet"? That remains to be seen. After all, Jim Jones of Jonestown could have been described in exactly that way.



# Double up, America.

Two can ride cheaper  
than one.





# Memorandum

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



To : DIRECTOR, FBI

Date 4/29/82

From : SAC, INDIANAPOLIS (100-28310) (RUC)

Subject : CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS  
DEFENSE LEAGUE,  
CITIZENS EMERGENCY  
DEFENSE SYSTEM  
DOMESTIC SECURITY

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF  
DATE 8/16/83

OO: SI

DECLASSIFIED BY RPL-BSK/SC  
ON 8/25/83  
23/43

All paragraphs herein including the caption are classified "confidential" unless otherwise noted.

ReIPairtel to Bureau dated 10/8/81, and Springfield airtel to Bureau, 10/5/81.

(b)(7)(C), (D)

According to the literature, the Citizens Emergency Defense System is located at P.O. Box 565, Flora, Illinois, 62839, Telephone #618/665-3937, and its National Defense Coordinator is listed as retired USAF Brigadier General Jack Mohr, 113 Ballentine Street, Bay-St. Louis, Mississippi, 39520, Telephone #601/467-8036.

- 2 - Bureau  
1 - Jackson (Info)  
1 - Springfield (100-11623) (Info)  
2 - Washington Field Office (1 - 100-59886) (1 - 100-59886)  
1 - Indianapolis

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY 2979

REASON FOR EXTENSION FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2(2&3)

DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 4/29/200

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

IP 100-28310

(b)(7)(C), (D)

 wanted this brought to the attention of the FBI due to the contents of the literature.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



SUBJECT

Christian Patriots Defense League

FILE NUMBER

References 7-18700-47

174-8319-3

62-0-89427

100-0-46518

100-0-46519

100-0-46598

100-0-46610

FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
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PP HQ SI SL AT

DE MP 20201

P 202020Z AUG 82

U AUG 82 20 18z

FM MINNEAPOLIS (7A-984) (RUC) DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

SPRINGFIELD (7A-1110) PRIORITY

ST. LOUIS (7A-1642) PRIORITY

ATLANTA (7A-1915) (SQUAD 7) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

UNSUBS.,

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Exec. AD-Inv.	_____
Exec. AD-LES	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

KIDNAPPING (A).

OO: SPRINGFIELD.

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO MINNEAPOLIS DATED AUGUST 19, 1982,  
ATLANTA TELETYPE TO MINNEAPOLIS DATED AUGUST 19, 1982, MINNEAPOLIS  
TELCALL TO SPRINGFIELD ON AUGUST 19, 1982.

DE-7

7-18700-47  
AUG 25 1982

58 SEP 24 1982

XXXXXX  
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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

7-18700-47 pages 243

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PAGE. FOUR

MP 7A-984

UNCLAS

(b)(7)(C), (D)

[REDACTED] WHICH CENTERED UPON EXTREMIST

RELIGIOUS GROUPS. HE ADVISED THAT HE RECALLED ONE GROUP BEING

FROM FLORA, ILLINOIS WHICH CALLED ITSELF "THE CHRISTIAN

PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE"; HE SAID THIS GROUP IS HEADED BY

JOHN WARELL, IT IS A VERY RIGHT-WING TYPE CHRISTIAN GROUP.



PAGE FIVE

MP 7A-984

UNCLAS

(b)(7)(c)(D)

[REDACTED]

INASMUCH AS MINNEAPOLIS IS UNAWARE IF OFFICE OF ORIGIN  
IS ALREADY IN RECEIPT OF AFOREMENTIONED INFORMATION [REDACTED]

(b)(7)(c)

[REDACTED] LEADS ARE BEING LEFT TO THE DISCRETION  
OF SPRINGFIELD AND MINNEAPOLIS CONSIDERS THIS MATTER RUC'D.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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174-8319-3 pages 1+2

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PAGE THREE MO 174-NEW UNCLAS E F T O

(b)(7)(C), (D)

[REDACTED]

REQUEST OF FBIHQ: FBIHQ IS REQUESTED TO ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY

[REDACTED] CHRISTIAN - PATRIOTS DEFENSE LEAGUE BASED ON  
THE ABOVE AND FURNISH SPRINGFIELD ANY INFORMATION NOT ALREADY IN  
THEIR POSSESSION.

[REDACTED]

BT

CC-IDENT

174-8319-3

page 3



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Post Office Box 2118  
Detroit, Michigan 48231  
August 29, 1980

LOCAL & STATE

(b)(7)(C)  
[REDACTED]  
Mayor's Office  
Room 1126  
City-County Building  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the telephone call of  
Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Terence D.  
Dinan of this office on August 22, 1980.

During this conversation you requested a name  
check [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
This information was provided to the FBI telephonically  
by an individual identifying himself [REDACTED]  
and related that [REDACTED] answers the  
telephone for an organization in Flora, Illinois known  
as the "Christian Patriotic Defense League", telephone  
number 618-665-3937.

DE-93 62-6-87427

Very truly yours,

NOT RECORDED

3 SEP 5 1980

O. Franklin Lowie  
Special Agent in Charge

By: [REDACTED] Special Agent

NOV 2 1981

1 - Bureau  
(ATTN: [REDACTED]  
Terrorism Section)

8 1981

FEB 17 1982



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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 9/8/81

(b)(7)(C)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (100- ) (CI-2) (RUC)

CHRISTIAN PATRIOT DEFENSE  
LEAGUE/SCEPTRE, INC.  
BENTON, TENNESSEE  
DOMESTIC SECURITY INVESTIGATION

KNOXVILLE  
DETROIT  
Atlanta  
Advised on 9/22/81  
TO DECLASSIFY  
All advised copy NOT  
OPENED - placed in DEPT  
OR 200 FILE  
P/S

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM,  
captioned and dated as above. Atlanta and Knoxville are receiving  
two copies each of this LHM. (U)

Detroit indices negative regarding captioned subjects as  
well as USPERS #1 and #2. (U)

A-3  
LHM  
10/3/81

SEP 22 1981

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Level of Classification  
Classified and E.T. by 6040  
Reason for E.T. 11, 1-2.4.2 (2)(3)  
Date of Review for E.T. 9/8/2001

(b)(7)(C)

- 2 - Bureau (Enc.-6) (RM)
- 2 - Atlanta (Enc.-2) (RM)
- 2 - Knoxville (Enc.-2) (RM)
- 2 - Detroit

Declassified  
by 8024  
1981 9/25/81

cc Airtel to SWP, LHM  
destroyed 9/21/81

Approved:

Transmitted

(Number)


(Time)

Per

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DE 100-

Copies of LHMs are being sent to Knoxville and Atlanta in view of their possible interest in captioned matter. (U)

Bureau is asked to appropriately review this matter and advise recipients if and what additional queries are warranted.  (S) h

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET45

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100-0-46598-page 3 of airtel & enclosure

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
ADVISOR  
SLIP (S) *Class*  
DATE *1-5-84* *AS*

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 12/14/81

FROM : *Del* SAC, KNOXVILLE *(S)* *(b)(1)*

SUBJECT: *X* CHRISTIAN PATRIOT DEFENSE LEAGUE/SCEPTRE, INC.  
BENTON, TENNESSEE  
DOMESTIC SECURITY INVESTIGATION

Reference Detroit airtel and LHM to the Director dated 9/8/81.

*(b)(7)(C)*  
Above referenced airtel advised FBIHQ of the existence of *(b)(7)(C)* captioned organization, and Sceptre, Inc., the manufacturer and distributor of firearms and other paraphernalia located near Benton, Tennessee.

*(b)(7)(C), (D)*  
*1/5/84*  
Classified by *104*  
Declassify on: OADR  
231, 431  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

*7E-81*

- ② - Bureau
- 2 - Knoxville

*As per 7A-110A work  
advised. No justification  
investigate. No further action  
group. inc. 1/18/82*

12 DEC 13 1981

KX

[REDACTED] (s)

(b)(1)

X

(b)(7)(D)  
[REDACTED]

In view of the above and prior information furnished FBIHQ by the Detroit Division in above referenced airtel, the Bureau is requested to again review this matter and advise as to whether or not a limited domestic security investigation should be conducted.

X